

CLAIMS

2. A buckle assembly for securing a strap to a fixed post having an enlarged head; the assembly comprising:

a pair of spring-loaded swing arms connected at a common fulcrum and having opposed locking hooks for enclosing a post locking aperture formed between said arms, said aperture being configured to receive said post, said swing arms having respective release tabs for grasping by one hand, said release tabs being positioned in opposed spaced relation to one another for opening said post locking aperture upon being pressed toward each other for removing said buckle assembly from said post;

a strap roller for receiving said strap; and

a spring-loaded strap release for selectively preventing and permitting movement of said strap around said roller for relative adjustment of said strap and said assembly;

wherein said swing arms each comprises an integral arm spring for configuring said post locking aperture in a normally locked position.

3. The buckle assembly recited in claim 2 further comprising a pair of spring stops positioned relative to said arm springs for limiting the motion of said arm springs upon opening of said post locking aperture.

~~3~~ 4. A buckle assembly for securing a strap to a fixed post having an enlarged head; the assembly comprising:

a pair of spring-loaded swing arms connected at a common fulcrum and having opposed locking hooks for enclosing a post locking aperture formed between said arms, said aperture being configured to receive said post, said swing arms having respective release tabs for grasping by one hand, said release tabs being positioned in opposed spaced relation to one another for opening said post locking aperture upon being pressed toward each other for removing said buckle assembly from said post;

a strap roller for receiving said strap; and

a spring-loaded strap release for selectively preventing and permitting movement of said strap around said roller for relative adjustment of said strap and said assembly;

wherein said strap release comprises an integral release spring for configuring said strap release in a normally strap-engaging position and a catch for selectively engaging said strap.

5. The buckle assembly recited in claim 4 further comprising a spring stop positioned relative to said release spring for limiting the motion of said release spring upon engagement of said strap release for disengagement of said catch from said strap.

~~56.~~ A buckle assembly for securing a strap to a fixed post having an enlarged head; the assembly comprising:

a pair of spring-loaded swing arms connected at a common fulcrum and having opposed locking hooks for enclosing a post locking aperture formed between said arms, said aperture being configured to receive said post, said swing arms having respective release tabs for grasping by one hand, said release tabs being positioned in opposed spaced relation to one another for opening said post locking aperture upon being pressed toward each other for removing said buckle assembly from said post;

a strap roller for receiving said strap; and

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a spring-loaded strap release for selectively preventing and permitting movement of said strap around said roller for relative adjustment of said strap and said assembly;

further comprising an upper case and a lower case for substantially enclosing said swing arms, said lower case having an elongated slot for selective channeling of said buckle assembly onto said post and for selective removal of said buckle assembly from said post.

7. The buckle assembly recited in claim 6 wherein said post locking aperture is shaped to receive said post and to engage said enlarged head in contiguous abutting relation to prevent inadvertent removal of said buckle assembly from said post.

~~8. The buckle assembly recited in claim 6 wherein said common fulcrum comprises a fastener for securing said swing arms to each other for relative angular movement therebetween.~~

~~9. A buckle assembly for securing a strap to a fixed post having an enlarged head; the assembly comprising:~~

a pair of spring-loaded swing arms connected at a common fulcrum and having opposed locking hooks for enclosing a post locking aperture formed between said arms, said aperture being configured to receive said post, said swing arms having respective release tabs for grasping by one hand, said release tabs being positioned in opposed spaced relation to one another for opening said post locking aperture upon being pressed toward each other for removing said buckle assembly from said post;

a strap roller for receiving said strap; and

a spring-loaded strap release for selectively preventing and permitting movement of said strap around said roller for relative adjustment of said strap and said assembly;

wherein said strap release comprises a bearing engaging a recess in said assembly for permitting limited angular motion toward and away from said strap.

10. The buckle assembly recited in claim 4 wherein said strap release catch is configured for selectively engaging teeth integral to and extending from said strap.